



North Carolina Sea Grant

North Carolina State University
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NCSG Research Symposium Funding Opportunity – 2014

On April 16, 2014, North Carolina Sea Grant (NCSG), an inter-institutional center of the University of North Carolina System, hosted the North Carolina Sea Grant Research Symposium: Investments and Opportunities. The purpose of the symposium was to highlight excellence across NCSG sponsored research and extension efforts and facilitate stakeholder discussions to identify research, extension, applied science investment opportunities, and collaborative partnerships to effectively address North Carolina's coastal needs now and into the future. The outcomes and lessons learned from the symposium have been summarized into a white paper that can be found at http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncsgday2014_whitepaper/. To continue the momentum from this event, NCSG is offering competitive funding for **hypothesis-based research proposals** in the following categories focusing on North Carolina.

Categories:

- Infrastructure in the coastal zone.
Many types of infrastructure concerns were identified at the research symposium including: estuarine shoreline stabilization, energy production, and municipal facilities to name a few. NCSG seeks to fund projects that examine how ‘infrastructure’ interacts with the natural system from an ecological, social, and/or economic perspective.
- Long-term datasets.
There are many long-term North Carolina based datasets (e.g. NCNERR-SWMP, NCDWR-Ambient Monitoring System, NCDMF-trawl surveys). NCSG seeks to fund proposals that use existing long-term, North Carolina-based datasets to answer specific research questions that will enhance the management of our coastal resources.
- Tidal creek systems.
Tidal creeks provide important habitat areas, filter nutrients and sediment, and are often used as water access conduits. Yet, often times their importance is overlooked. NCSG seeks to support research proposals that further enhance our knowledge and management of these important systems.
- Research to inform restoration.
NCSG is not able to fund purely restoration projects. However, critical habitats (e.g. oyster reefs, salt marsh, and submerged aquatic vegetation) are often restored as a resultant byproduct of a hypothesis driven research project. Many times projects such as these will result in new and better restoration practices that can be used by other agencies. NCSG seeks to encourage creative, hypothesis-driven research projects that have the potential to enhance the success of future restoration activities as an added byproduct of the research project.

We invite proposals for one-year projects, with budgets up to \$40,000 in grant funds. Indirect costs may not be charged, and no matching funds are required. Proposals that: address multiple

categories and are from teams of researchers across different institutions, are encouraged. Submitted proposals must justify how the proposed work has relevancy to the mission of NCSG and addresses one of NCSG's focus areas. Please consult the NCSG strategic plan to help you with this aspect of your proposal: <http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/2014-strategic-plan>. Proposals that lack a research question will not receive favorable reviews.

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2014.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, the Principal Investigator must be a faculty member at a North Carolina college or university, a staff member with local or state governmental entities in North Carolina, a staff member of a non-government organization with an office in North Carolina, or a private North Carolina citizen. Federal government employees are not eligible to receive funding, but may participate as unfunded collaborators. Liability insurance coverage is required to conduct projects if you are not affiliated with a University.

Proposal Format: The following proposal sections are required. The number of pages in parentheses indicates the maximum for each section; please number pages consecutively.

1. Cover Sheet (1 page)

The cover sheet must include:

- the title of the proposal
- name, title, affiliation (department and university) and full contact information (address, phone number, email address) for the principal investigator (the PI)
- name, title, affiliation and contact information for any co-investigators (co-PIs)
- signature of PI, and name and signature of university official authorized to submit the proposal on behalf of the PI's university (proposals from NC State should include the PINS number instead of these signatures)
- the start date and end date of the proposed project
- the total funds requested for the project
- the date the proposal is submitted (e.g., Submitted: January 1, 2014)

2. Body of Proposal (5 pages)

The five-page limit includes all figures and tables as well as text. Use 1-inch margins and 12-point font. The body of the proposal should include the following elements:

- an introduction and statement of the problem addressed including how the proposal relates to one or more of the categories of this funding opportunity and why the work is relevant to the mission of NCSG, including which of NCSG's focus areas it targets
- specific objectives that will be accomplished
- tasks that will be completed
- methods to be used
- the expected products or outcomes
- a well-detailed outreach plan documenting how the results obtained will be made available to others. Proposals that do not include a detailed outreach plan will not receive favorable reviews. You may budget some funds toward outreach activities to support this aspect of your project.

3. References Cited (no limit)

Provide full citations for all references cited in the body of the proposal (and only those references), in standard bibliographical format, in alphabetical order by the first author's last name.

4. Suggested Reviewers (1 page)

Please include the name and full contact information (address, phone number, email address) of three potential reviewers for your proposal. Be sure these suggested reviewers are individuals who have no conflict of interest with any of the investigators on the proposed project, e.g., they are not collaborators, co-workers (same institution), co-authors, or thesis/dissertation advisers or advisees of the proposal investigators, and have no other relationships that could be viewed as potential conflicts of interest.

5. Budget (1 page)

Please use the provided budget template at http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncsg_90-4/ to enter your budget.

6. Budget Explanation (1 page)

A complete budget justification should be included for each item listed in the budget template. The justification should be detailed enough to allow evaluation by reviewers of your proposed costs. Proposals not containing a budget justification will be returned to the PI without consideration for funding. **Indirect costs are not allowed and cannot be included in the budget.**

7. Curricula Vitae (2 pages per investigator)

Provide a C.V. for the PI, each co-PI and any other personnel mentioned by name in the proposal.

8. Letters of Support or Collaboration (optional, as needed)

Provide letters documenting, for example, collaborations important to the project (with individuals who are not listed as co-investigators), or your permission to access facilities or data sets controlled by others and necessary for the project.

Proposal Submission

Please submit two files as part of your application by **4 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2014** to Debra Lynch, debra@ncsu.edu.

1. A single Adobe pdf of your entire application package.
2. An Excel file of your completed budget form.

Other

The budget must not exceed \$40,000. Project duration should be planned around a 12-month time period. Indirect costs are not allowed and cannot be included in the budget. Cost sharing is not required. Incomplete applications, and those that do not conform to the above format, will not be considered. Proposals will receive peer review. We anticipate funding three projects through this call, subject to available funding. The awardee will be required to submit a brief progress report at six months and a final report upon completion.

This announcement also can be found on the Sea Grant website at <http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/funding-opps/>.

Questions?

Research and budget questions should be directed to John Fear, deputy director of North Carolina Sea Grant and the Water Resources Research Institute, 919-515-9104, jmfear@ncsu.edu.

For outreach questions please contact Katie Mosher, 919-515-9069, kmosher@ncsu.edu, or Jack Thigpen, 919-515-3012, Jack_Thigpen@ncsu.edu.

Submission questions should be directed to Debra Lynch, 919-515-9102, debra@ncsu.edu.